



THE JEWISH DAILY

FORWARD פורווארד

MAY 1981

שַׁעַר זָהָב

NISAN / IYAR

5741

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS!!



CONGREGATIONAL
ELECTIONS
MAY
31

Co-Leader Connection

Once upon a time, in a city known for its openly gay population, a synagogue was born. This was no ordinary synagogue, however. It spanned the spectrum of Jewish observance from Orthodox to atheistic. What brought its members together -- and made it different from other synagogues in the city -- was that lesbians and gay men could celebrate their love for one another at this synagogue. To this miracle, the synthesis of gay lifestyle and Jewish heritage, people brought their dreams and their expectations, their goodwill and their love. With love and goodwill they worked to build a successful synagogue. Then they stood back and judged their work, using their expectations as a yardstick. For some, unfortunately, the synagogue did not meet their expectations, and they ceased their involvement in it. For others, the synagogue came close enough to what they wanted it to be and they decided to continue to work to fulfill their dreams. After less than five years it was clear that the synagogue would survive. It had become an established institution in the city, as well as an integral part of the world-wide network of gay and lesbian Jewish organizations.

True stories seldom make the transition into fairy tales. Everyday life is too mundane; it usually lacks the catastrophes and adventures of make-believe, and the perfection embodied in the stock ending, "They lived happily ever after." The ups and downs of real life are more on the order of missed streetcars, broken relationships, boring or tense Va'ad meetings, and Co-leaders "dropping the ball," rather than dragons and magic spells. Because we are so enmeshed in the details of everyday life, we often fail to notice the drama of which we are a part. The synagogue is a good example of this. What a different perspective we get when we stand back from the day-to-day activities of the congregation, and take a broader look at what we are. What we see is not perfection, no matter how hard we squint, but we do see commitment to peoplehood, devotion to cause, and altruism. These qualities are part of our members' characteristics that have made Sha'ar Zahav what it is today, and they will continue to help us fulfill our dreams

of what the congregation can and will be.

My view of Sha'ar Zahav, ofcourse, is colored by my position as Co-leader. My feelings about the approaching congregational elections are bitter-sweet. On the one hand, I can hardly wait to step down, and enjoy the congregation for what it is rather than being on a constant lookout for problems. On the other hand, those involved in running the synagogue have a microscopic view of how the organization works which comes only through close scrutiny, which magnifies the successes as well as the problems. To have been privy to this view has meant hard work, but its rewards have been inestimable.

For those of you who will take up where the current Va'ad leaves off, I have a small piece of advice. It comes from an adventure story, but a true one, which is more applicable to Sha'ar Zahav than fairy tales. Naomi James, the first woman to sail around the world, said that her prayers were not that the waves would cease, but that she would have the strength to ride them out. Our synagogue cannot assume that someday we will live "happily ever after," and that the sea will be calm. We can, however, take courage from the knowledge that at the crest of each wave, a trough awaits us, and that the trough after that is only a prayer away.

I will never forget the lessons about Judaism, about people, and about myself that I have learned during my term of office, and I thank the congregation for the opportunity to learn while serving my community. I especially thank each of you who, through advice, support, or your example, made the lessons easier. My prayers are that Sha'ar Zahav will continue to grow in the spirit of loving kindness which is the cornerstone of our faith. I will continue to work as hard as I can to this end. Thank you, good luck, and shalom --

--I love you all,

Laurie



~~Not So~~ Briefly From Bryan

As you are reading this issue of the Jewish Gaily Forward stop for a moment or two and consider that this publication doesn't appear each month by magic.

The cost per issue averages \$1.00. That sounds relatively inexpensive to you perhaps. However, multiply that one dollar by 700 copies each month and you have a sizable monthly expense for the synagogue to carry.

You can assist us in defraying the cost of the Jewish Gaily Forward in several ways. The most valuable assistance for you and us is for you to become a member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav if you currently are not a member. You can also send in a donation and have your name published in our donation column.

We don't want to charge a subscription fee for this newsletter. We Va'ad members have continuously battled to keep the Jewish Gaily Forward free. With your continuing financial support we can maintain our newsletter as a free outreach service.

We all have a stake in the future growth of our synagogue. Each of us who are currently serving on the Va'ad have pledged to bring one new person into membership. This isn't too much to ask. If each of us, as synagogue members, bring one new person into membership, WOW!! You know it's possible. We all have friends who just need that little encouragement from us that says: "I can make a contribution here. It's great to be a member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav!"

You see, we all make a difference!

Shalom,

Bryan
Bryan Taylor,
Editor



There are two secular Jewish observances coming up this month which have taken on great significance since their inception. They are inextricably intertwined, and the reason for observing the one has a causative relationship for the existence of the other.

I refer, ofcourse, to Yom ha-Shoa, the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust, and Yom ha-Atzama'ut, Israel Independence Day. Both of these days have received special note within the same forty year period, although the former has only received top billing in the last few years.

Israel, the historic and ancient homeland for the Jews, was founded in its present state less than thirty-five years ago. Yet the events leading up to its founding had begun some two thousand years before. With the rise of Zionism at the turn of the century (that is, political Zionism), a movement was born which would eventually lead to the re-establishment of the Jewish state in its present location.

While things were moving in that direction by the 1930's, it was Hitler's attempt to eradicate the Jews of Europe which pushed the effort to establish the state into high gear. Shortly after the conclusion of the Second World War, the dream of a Jewish state became a reality.

It is the re-founding of that state whose independence we observe each year at this time which calls for a special celebration all over the world. Every country has its special days of observance and celebration. However, not every country has the rest of the world celebrating with them. Now it may be that it is simply because there are Jews living in far-flung places all over the world who celebrate this occasion that their countries of residence join in the celebration. But I think there is more to it. To wit: I believe that there is an international sense of pride that Israel was able to come into being as an independent and sovereign state, especially under such trying circumstances. If there are any other reasons needed, I believe that deep down, perhaps even in the collective unconscious of the world, there is

an understanding of how important the existence and growth of Israel really is. What is at the same time so ironic and so tragic is that within one week of this observance, this wild celebration of our reality of having a national homeland, we observe something else which is quite the opposite. We observe the world-wide Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust during the week preceding the Yom ha-Atzma'ut celebration. This is a most solemn time, in which we remind ourselves of the almost unspeakable horror of the cruelties of the Nazi regime during the Second World War, during which over six million Jews were systematically arrested, tortured, and killed by the Nazis in the name of national purity.

Lest we forget, we who are homosexual as well remember that there was a special category for the "impure" which applied solely to us during this time. How many thousands of homosexual people died at the hands of the Nazis is not clear yet. Numbers range from ten thousand to over a quarter of a million. Which figure is correct, the reality for us is that simply because one was homosexual, or simply because one was Jewish, or a trade-unionist, or whatever group or individual opposed the Nazi dream of national purity, one was put to death.

That there are still people who try to deny the fact that the Holocaust took place is only one reason that we observe this annual day of remembrance. We must, of course, not allow these people to have the credibility which they seek, if for no other reason than to honor the memory of those deaths we knew took place. It is that simple. But beyond that we are obligated to teach those who come after us that such things happen and that they can happen again.

We observe Yom ha-Shoa first. First the horror takes place in history. Death at human hands on the greatest scale ever. In its aftermath, like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, Jews found the State of Israel. The state where Jews may live freely as Jews, and God willing, in peace and security, never again having to fear a repeat of that most horrible chapter in our collective past.

Please take the time to join with us as we join with the community at large in observing these two important occasions in the life of the Jew.

Shalom,



Allen

MONTHLY SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Rabbi Allen Bennett is pleased to announce that monthly Shabbat morning services will begin at his home, 1650 Page Street, San Francisco, on May 9th, at 10:00 a.m.

The time and location of the monthly Shabbat morning service will be announced each month in the Gaily Forward.

The Ritual Committee and Rabbi Bennett are looking forward to your regular attendance at these new services.

Late Report

AS WE WERE GOING TO PRESS WE LEARNED THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN OUR BY-LAWS WAS APPROVED AT THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD SUNDAY, APRIL 26.

THE NEW BY-LAWS PROVIDE FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS: PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, RECORDER, AND TREASURER, PLUS A NINE MEMBER VA'AD.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND THE NEW VA'AD MEMBERS WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 31, AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, CALIFORNIA AND PRESIDIO, SAN FRANCISCO, FROM 1 TO 4 P.M.

AS A MEMBER OF SHA'AR ZAHAV IT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CAST YOUR BALLOT ON MAY 31.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

MOTHER'S
DAY

SHA'AR ZAHAV GARAGE SALE!!!!

Start cleaning out your closets! Get ready for the Sha'ar Zahav Garage Sale, May 10th, at 3952 18th Street, San Francisco, between Noe and Sanchez Streets.

This is your golden opportunity to complete that spring cleaning, and donate your unused or unwanted treasures to the best cause -- your synagogue!!

This is also your big chance to pick up new new treasures at wonderful prices.

In this day and age it pays to shop around. So begin your shopping at the Sha'ar Zahav Garage Sale this May 10th.

If you have items to donate, or if you desire further information, please call our synagogue at 621-2871.

Bits & Pieces

MAZEL TOV!!!

A big Mazel Tov and best wishes to Bryan Taylor, Don Hamilton, and Kip Cohen on the founding of their new business, The Perfect Place, Roommate Referral Service. Call Bryan, Don, or Kip at 641-9047.

LESBIAN AND GAY HEALTH

A unique two-day seminar on Lesbian and Gay Health will be presented by the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights. The seminar will be held on May 2 and 3 at New College of California, 777 Valencia Street, San Francisco. Call 626-1694 for further information.

JERUSALEM STUDY

The Jerusalem Project, an intensive drama workshop for teachers in all fields, will be held in Jerusalem, Israel this summer. Two programs are available for July and August. University credit is available. For an application and interview call Joyce Duffala at 666-6862.

Va'ad Briefing

At the April Va'ad Meeting of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, the Personnel Evaluation Committee presented their report on the review of Rabbi Allen Bennett's contract. It was the committee's feeling that a review of this nature is inappropriate as the results from their survey proved to be inconclusive. The congregation members who responded to the survey gave an overall favorable opinion of Rabbi Bennett's performance with suggestions for improvement in various areas of his duties.

It was recommended by the committee that a different structure form be established for future personnel evaluation. The committee recommended approval of Rabbi Bennett's contract at the May Congregational Meeting. The position of clerical worker, to assist the Rabbi and the congregation was also recommended. The recommendations of the committee were approved by the Va'ad.

The Va'ad thanked the committee and voted its unanimous appreciation.

Fundraiser Hal Nappan presented his report and stated that it is the right time to begin our synagogue fundraising campaign.

The Va'ad approved the recommendation of the Building Committee to again hold High Holiday Services at the Jewish Community Center.

The Membership Committee presented the names of four new members for approval. They were approved. Our membership now stands at 150 persons.

Each Va'ad member pledged to bring one prospective member to synagogue, and encourage others to do the same.

The Oneg Committee raised approximately \$300.00 for chinaware to be used at oneg and holiday events. A Congregational Breakfast was suggested as a possible fundraising event.

The Nominating and Elections Committee was formed for the upcoming congregational elections. The committee members are: Dan Kohanski, Leila Raim, Bryan Taylor, Ron Lezell, and Kathy Nelson.

The Ritual Committee reported that the new Haggadah will be ready for the Congregational Seder.

A series of Yiddish films tentatively scheduled to be present in May had to be cancelled as

the cost was prohibitive, reported the Education Committee. We were originally quoted an erroneous rental fee.

The Finance Committee said the Garage Sale is slated for May 10th, and Laurie Radovsky has donated the use of her garage at 3952 18th Street, between Noe and Sanchez, San Francisco, as the location.

The Outreach Committee reported that Sandy Pomeranz and Ben Marcus have formed a synagogue hospice service called Coming Home.

The Va'ad approved May 31 as the Congregational Meeting for the election of officers and a new Va'ad.

The May Va'ad meeting will be held at the home of Paul Cohen, 424 Central Ave., San Francisco.

We thanked Leila Raim for the use of her home for this Va'ad meeting.

Women's Chavurah

When the Women's Chavurah first came into being over a year and a half ago, it provided the few women then involved in Sha'ar Zahav a wonderful opportunity to meet each other and to enjoy the company of other Jewish lesbians. At that time, when only a dozen or so women participated in the Chavurah events, communication was largely by word of mouth, and plans were made informally. Now that the number of women who are interested in the Women's Chavurah has quadrupled this method no longer works.

So how can we perpetuate that special enriching, loving experience of the Women's Chavurah? It doesn't happen on its own. If we want to keep it alive we have to contribute our ideas and our energy. What are you willing to contribute? What events are you interested in (e.g. field trip to a mikvah, picnics, workshops, havdallah potluck dinners)? We need your input.

Please send your comments to the Women's Chavurah, c/o Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101, or call Leila at 751-1576, or Laurie at 621-0893.



DO
THIS
NOW!
↓

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print)

Name _____ Birthdate ____/____/____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Occupation _____

Name of Lover/Spouse (if applicable) _____

Children _____

Anniversary Dates (please specify) _____

Yahrzeit:	Honoree	Date	Relationship
_____	_____	_____	_____

Type of Membership or affiliation (check one)

____ Individual ____ Couple/Family ____ Friend of Congregation
____ (non-voting affiliate)

Recommended dues are 1% of annual income with a \$50.00 minimum. For the year beginning Rosh Hashana, I pledge \$ _____ as my annual dues contribution.

I wish to pay my dues in advance: (check one)
____ Annually ____ Semi-Annually ____ Quarterly ____ Monthly

I would be interested in working on the following committee(s)

____ Ritual	____ Building	____ Education	____ Oneg Shabbat
____ Outreach	____ Newsletter	____ Finance	____ Membership
____ Program			

I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE CONGREGATION AND HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN, OR AFFILIATION WITH, CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS CONFIDENTIAL, THAT IT WILL BE USED ONLY FOR CONGREGATIONAL PURPOSES, AND WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO ANYONE OUTSIDE THE VA'AD OR APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE.

_____ Signature	_____ Date
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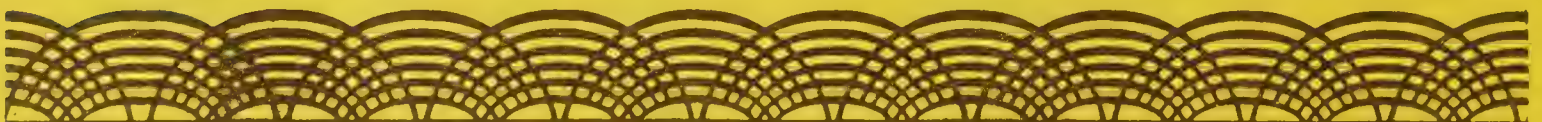
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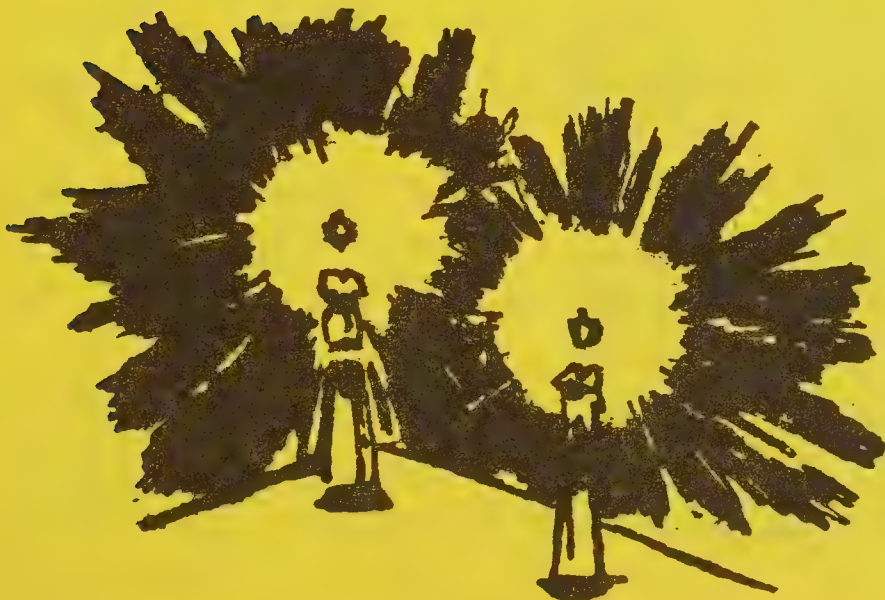
JOIN
THE CONGREGATION
OF THE
"GOLDEN
GATE" -
SHA'AR ZAHAV



Ritual Calendar

- Friday, May 1: TORAH KEDOSHIM
Lev. 19:1 - 20:27
Haftarah
Amos 9:7-15
YOM HA-SHOAH/HOLOCAUST DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE
Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Rabbi Bennett, Services
Rhonda Abrams, Anti-Defamation
League of B'nai B'rith, Sermon
- Friday, May 8: TORAH EMAR
Lev. 21:1 - 24:23
Haftarah
Ezekiel 44:15-31
Rabbi Bennett, Services
Bernard Pechter, Sermon
- Friday, May 15: TORAH BEHAR
Lev. 25:1 - 26:2
Haftarah
Jeremiah 32:6-27
Laurie Radovsky, Services
- Friday, May 22: TORAH BEHUKOTAI
Lev. 26:3 - 27:34
Haftarah
Jeremiah 16:19 - 17:14
LAG B'OMER
Rabbi Bennett, Services
- Friday, May 29: TORAH BAMIDBAR
Numbers 1:1 - 4:20
Haftarah
Hosea 2:1-22
Rosh Chodesh Sivan
Steven Fritsch Rudser, Services

NEW
MONTHLY
SHABBAT
MORNINGS
SERVICES
- SEE PAGE 7 -



APRIL ONEGIN

- April 3: By Shelley Fernandez and Michal for their First Anniversary
- April 10: By the Oneg Committee for the enjoyment of the Congregation
- April 17: By Jeffrey Davidson for the enjoyment of the Congregation
- April 24: By Jeff Mendelsohn and Jeff Qutstadt in honor of Spring

REPORT FROM ONEG LTD.

I will be on vacation from May 27 through June 26. Upon my return I will resume my full duties as Chair of the Oneg Committee, and member of the Va'ad.

After a great deal of thought, I have decided to run for a second term of office on the Va'ad. I also wish to remain as Oneg Committee Chair.

The reason I wish to continue serving stems from my desire to remain a positive influence in our synagogue. I have learned a great deal over this past year of service, and wish to continue growing in my ability to serve you.

I wish to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the fund raiser recently held by the Oneg Committee. This event enabled us to raise approximately \$300.00 for the purchase of needed cups, saucers, dishes, and bowls for use at our oneg and holiday events.

The chinaware is beautiful, and I thank you for all your support.

We need two people every week to assist with oneg preparation and cleanup. All this requires is to be willing to donate your time and ability one-half hour before and after services on Friday evenings. This will assist us in presenting our onegs more efficiently.

While I am on vacation the Oneg Committee will need extra help. Your support is appreciate. Please call me at 776-1289 if you can assist us.

The next Oneg Committee meeting will be May 7 at the home of Shelley Spiro, 51 Valley Street, San Francisco. Please attend! You are welcome!

Shalom, *David*

Yahrzeits

Shira Bana, sister of A. W. Bannowsky	May 15
Gertrude Holzman, mother of Marcy Holzman	May 20
Margaret Gartner Staub, grandmother of Wendy	May 20
Ida Parker, mother of Harold Parker	May 26
Mary Thal, mother of Sam Thal	May 30
Benjamin Auerbach, father of Isabel Auerbach	1 Iyar (May 5)
Abe Schorr, father of Cynthia Schorr	12 Iyar (May 16)
Frances Raim, mother of Leila Raim	17 Iyar (May 21)

Remember

MAY 1

Yom ha-Shoa

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
OF THE HOLOCAUST

MAY 7

YOM HA-ATZMA'UT

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY



Birthdays

Richard Welch	May 3
Joyce Amburgey	May 6
Herb Cohn	May 12
Arnie Jacksin	May 15
Alisa Shavin Messer	May 15
Stephen Auerbach	May 16
Sally Gordon	May 19
Rob Montague	May 21
Jerry Rosenstein	May 21
Gene Maxey	May 24
Cary Kandel	May 26
Tony Moore	May 28
Eric Keitel	May 29
Maurice Osser	May 29
Isabel Auerbach	May 30
Bryan Taylor	May 30

Donations

We expressly thank the following persons for their contributions: Dr. A.G. Beauregard Lowell III



John Golebowski

Jerry Rosenstein

Jerry Rosenstein

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MAY 1981 NISAN

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MAY 1:
DAY OF
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Rosh Hodesh
Iyar

Rosh Hodesh
Iyar

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Memorial
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CONGREGATIONAL
ELECTIONS 31
1:00-4:00 P.M.
AT THE
כז J.C.C.

MAY 10:
VA'AD MEETING
AT PAUL COHEN'S
424 CENTRAL AV.
S.F. AT 10 A.M.
ALL MEMBERS
ARE ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND
VA'AD
MEETINGS


SHAR ZAHAV
MOTHER'S DAY
GARAGE SALE
3952 18th ST.
S.F.

JEWISH
GAILY
FORWARD
DEADLINE



IYAR 5741

ניסן / אייר

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>ANCE LOCAUST</div>		Yom ha-Shoah 1 SHABBAT SERVICES RABBI BENNETT, SERVICES RHONDA כז	2 ABRAMS, SERMON כח
6 Yom ha-Zikaron ISRAEL INDEPEND- ENCE DAY א	7 Yom ha-Atzma'ut	8 SHABBAT SERVICES RABBI BENNETT, SERVICES BERNARD SERMON ז	9 MORNING SHABBAT SERVICE AT RABBI BENNETT, כט
13	14	15 SHABBAT SERVICES LAURIE RADOVSKY, SERVICES ל	16
20	21	Lag ba-Omer 22 SHABBAT SERVICES RABBI BENNETT, SERVICES מ	23
27	28	29 SHABBAT SERVICES STEVEN FRITSCH RUDSER, SERVICES כה	30

1650 HOME,
PAGE ST.
SAN FRANCISCO
AT 10 A.M.



